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(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION OF OFFICERS OF FOURTH BRIGADE TO IDEA OF CEASE FIRE WITH THE INSURGENTS

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) NatSecAct

30 November 1984

(b)(1)
(b)(3) NatSecAct

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(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) DIST: 30 NOVEMBER 1984

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION OF OFFICERS OF FOURTH BRIGADE TO IDEA OF
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BRIGADE COMMANDER LT. COL. SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ CALLED A MEETING
OF FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS ON THE EVENING OF 15 NOVEMBER 1984
AT A COMMANDERS MEETING EARLIER
THAT DAY AT HIGH COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR, THERE HAD BEEN
A DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY
AND THE INSURGENTS. ALL BUT
THREE OF THE COMMANDERS WERE OPPOSED TO A CEASE FIRE, AND THAT ONLY
THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY
HOSPITAL, AND THE CHIEF OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS WERE FOR IT.

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2. OCHOA ASKED HIS OFFICERS' OPINIONS
ON THE SUBJECT OF A CEASE FIRE. ALL WERE AGREED THAT
A CEASE FIRE WOULD NOT BE GOOD BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE,
RATHER THAN A DECREASE, IN INSURGENT VIOLENCE SINCE THE 15 OCTOBER
TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INSURGENTS; THE PEOPLE HAVE
BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE TALKS BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED
VIOLENCE; A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS

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DEVELOPED AMONG MANY MILITARY OFFICERS BECAUSE HE HAS NEVER MADE
A FULL REPORT TO THE MILITARY ON THE 15 OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS; AND
A CEASE FIRE WOULD ONLY HELP THE INSURGENTS TO REST AND PREPARE FOR
ANOTHER OFFENSIVE.

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3.   COMMENT: THE OFFICERS OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE DID
NOT CONSIDER A COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR
AGREE TO A CEASE FIRE. FOR THEM, A CEASE FIRE IS UNTHINKABLE, AND
THUS IN THEIR VIEW IT WILL NOT COME ABOUT.)

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